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SOURCE Probleme Economice, No 1, 1950.

#### THE MINING INDUSTRY IN THE ALBANIAN TWO-YEAR PLAN

Albania is extremely rich in mineral resources; just how rich has not yet been determined because a complete geological survey has not been made. These resources are to play an important role in the economic development of Albania under the Albanian People's Republic.

The Two-Year Plan provides for the organizing of the existing mines in order to assure an efficient and scientific exploitation. Under the plan, geological studies and research will be on a larger scale and through these even greater mineral riches will be discovered.

The Two-Year Plan has allocated 836 million lek to the mining industry. These funds will be distributed as follows:

1. Petroleum
  - a. Sixty million lek for drilling 110,000 linear meters of prospecting wells in the zones with petroleum reserves.
  - b. Two hundred ninety-two million lek (in 1949 and 1950) for increasing the production of petroleum in 1950. The production in 1950 is to be 59.70 percent more than in 1948 and 64,450 meters of productive drilling will be carried out.
  - c. Seventy-four million lek for building a 42-kilometer pipe-line.
  - d. Twelve million lek for preliminary work on a new refinery. This refinery is to have a capacity large enough to cover the domestic requirements.
  - e. Thirty-nine million lek to supply the petroleum industry with electricity and to improve the equipment in the existing refineries.
  - f. Twenty-eight million lek for building a new city at Patos, to be used by the petroleum industry.

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## 2. Chromium Mines

Twelve million lek will be allotted for opening new mines and for equipping the chromium mines with modern machinery. There are large deposits of chromium in the mountainous regions of Albania. The mining of chrome ore will be extensive and the ore will be the main export. In 1950, the production of chromium will be 857.17 percent of the 1938 and 572 percent of the 1948 production.

## 3. Lignite Mines

Eight million lek will be allotted for the lignite mines to assure the railroads and the urban population continuous and regular supplies of fuel.

## 4. Bitumen Mines

Forty-eight million lek will be allotted for 13,600 meters of prospecting in the Selenice mines. Production of purified bitumen in 1950 will be 123 percent of 1948 and 175 percent of 1928 production.

## 5. Copper Mines

Twenty-three million lek will be allotted for production and further exploration. Production in 1950 will be 363 percent of the 1948 output.

Help from the Soviet Union and the people's democracies is the most important factor for realizing the Two-Year Plan in mining and in all other economic fields. The USSR has sent trained men and the necessary equipment for geological research as well as machinery and equipment which will permit the best possible exploitation and constant increase in production.

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